



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

Hisashi ICHIMURA et al.

Serial No. 09/902,256

Filed July 11, 2001

Confirmation No. 8989

Docket No. 2001-0969

Group Art Unit 1751

Examiner P. Kumar

ANIMAL FIBER SUPERIOR IN SHRINK
PROOFING AND METHOD FOR
PREPARATION THEREOF

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of May 23, 2002 please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 16, cancel without prejudice in the subject matter thereof and add the following claims:

17. (New) An animal fiber;

having scales in original forms on the surface portion of the fiber and being oxidized to a degree of oxidation of a -S-S- bond in an epidermal cell of the animal fiber of not less than 0.1 of relative absorbance in an absorption band of -SO₃H group and/or not less than 0.08 of relative absorbance in an absorption band of -S-SO₃Na group (Bunte salts) with an absorbance of an absorption band corresponding to amide I set to 1 in a reflection FT-IR measuring method,

showing shrink proofing of an area shrinkage rate of not more than 8% in a three-hours aqueous washing when measured as a felting shrinkage rate in conformity with Woolmark Test

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